

## Southwest Michigan Field Crops Updates June 1, 2022

Here are updates from the MSU Extension Field Crops team in Southwest Michigan. If you have any items you would like me to include in future email updates—whether events you want others to know about or topics you would like to have addressed—please send me an email or call the office.

## Virtual Breakfast Hot Topics Q&A Session This Thursday

For those who have attended one or more of the [MSU Extension Field Crops Virtual Breakfast](#) sessions over the past few years, you'll know that they are always on Thursday mornings from 7-8am and they always include a short talk by a specialist, a weather report from Jeff Andresen, and a Q&A session. We are trying something new this week in that there will not be an assigned topic presented but rather it will be a chance for our specialists to talk about what issues have come across their desk so far this year. It will also be an opportunity for an extended Q&A time, so feel free to join this week at 7am and drop in any questions you have into the chat box.



Participating is easy and free! You can join the live meeting via Zoom using a computer, tablet, mobile device or regular phone line. If you are new to Zoom, simply [download the Zoom app](#) and you will be ready to join online every week to see visuals shared by presenters. A call-in by phone option is also available but note that you will only hear the audio portion.

Participants must sign up to receive an email notification with instructions for joining the Virtual Breakfast. You only need to do this once and you will receive the Zoom link and call-in phone number, as well as weekly reminders every Wednesday and Thursday. Participants receiving emails can opt in or out at any time. [Sign up to receive Virtual Breakfast Zoom information.](#)

## Pesticide Applicator Training?

As most of you know, MDARD has changed the way they offer the pesticide applicator registration testing, and that change trickled down to change how MSU Extension can offer training for taking the exams. Only a few in-person testing opportunities were offered in southern Michigan this past winter, and all were coupled with mandatory training sessions. For those who were not able to get to those events, the only way to take the exam is online through the [Metro Institute](#) which you can sign up for on MDARD's website. Prior to COVID, MSU Extension ran classes a few times each year in most counties to help people prepare to take their applicators

license. The core manual is available to purchase from either the local Extension office or from [this website](#). MSU Extension also offers an asynchronous online training for those interested in preparing to take the applicators exam. The cost is \$75 and you can find more information about it and register for it [at this website](#). I would consider running a local training if there is enough interest. **Email me ([eander32@msu.edu](mailto:eander32@msu.edu)) if you or someone you know would be interested in such a local training**—just realize that testing would still be on your own online.

## ALS and Glyphosate-Resistant Weeds

One of the graduate students in the weeds department at MSU is working on herbicide-resistant weeds and is conducting a survey of ALS- (Raptor, Classic, Harmony, FirstRate, etc.) and Roundup-resistant weeds, focusing on weed species that compete in soybean fields. They are looking to collect resistant and susceptible horseweed, common ragweed, giant ragweed, waterhemp and Palmer amaranth from soybean fields from diverse locations in Michigan during early growth (less than 12 inches tall). If you have known issues with these weeds and would be open to having me bring this grad student to your field to make collections, please let me know.

## Sustainable Agronomy Conference Free to All Attendees in 2022

Remember the 4-day virtual conference on sustainable agronomy hosted by the American Society of Agronomy I told you about last month? The registration is now live—[visit this website to register](#). You can either attend these live or watch the recordings at your leisure. This is a FREE event regardless of your membership status with ASA.



## Cass County Important Needs Assessment

The District Administrator for the Cass County Conservation District, Lori Whitmyer, sent out the following note—please consider helping with this if you live or farm in Cass County.

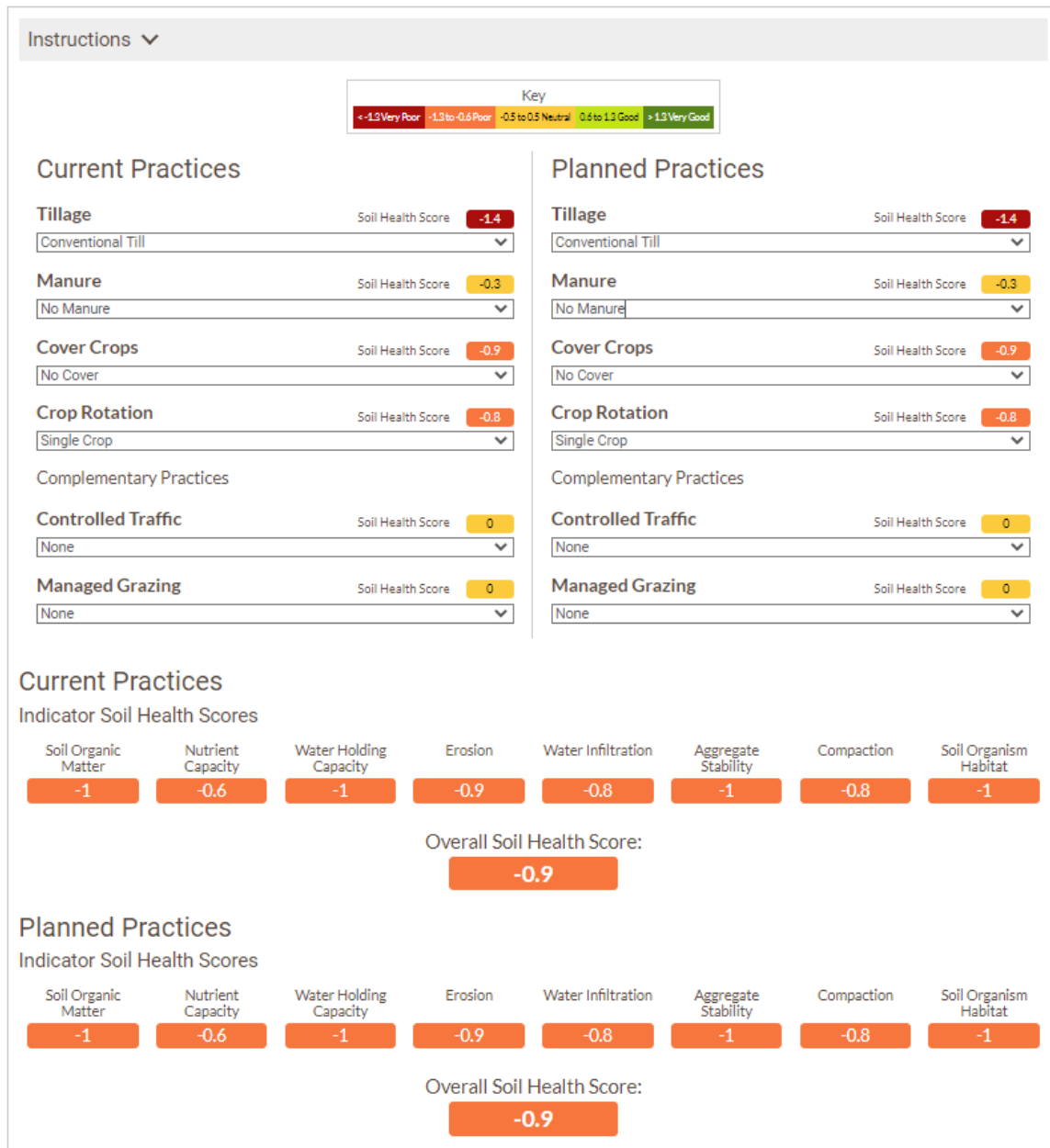
“Every five years MDARD and the state of Michigan require districts to conduct a survey for a district Needs Assessment. What this assessment accomplishes is finding out what local landowners and citizens of our county would like us to focus on in the upcoming five years. This survey is crucial to conducting the proper projects that are needed in our county. We want to keep our natural resources in the best condition possible. In order to do that we need feedback from our citizens. Please [follow this link to the survey](#). Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter.”

## Soil Health Matrix Decision Tool

The [Soil Health Matrix Decision Tool](#) is a free tool that was recently developed by the Soil Health Nexus and a regional advisory team with support from [North Central SARE](#). It is designed as a 101 tool to assess the effects of current and future management practices on soil health. Producers who are looking to implement a new soil

health practice on their operation can use this comparative tool to get an overall feel for practices that benefit soil health and which management decisions may be the best fit for their operation.

The tool includes four practices – tillage, manure, cover crops, and crop rotation – and two complementary practices – controlled traffic and managed grazing – and eight soil health indicators. Users can select their current practices and then select any future planned practices that they are currently considering implementing on their operation. From there, you users can explore their soil health score for their current practices and compare those with the scores for future planned practices they are considering.



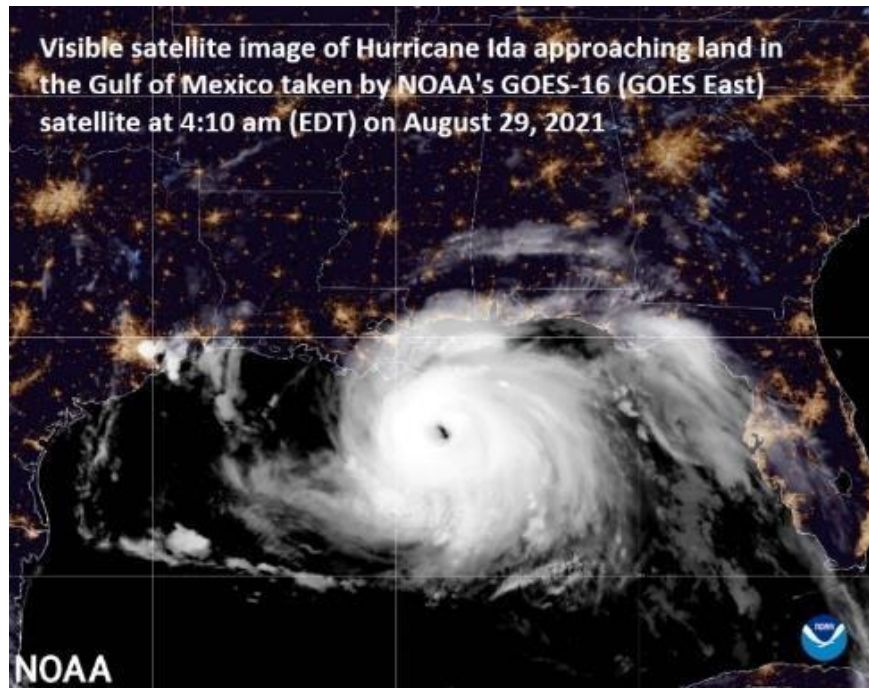
The tool provides three scores: an indicator, practice, and an overall score. The indicator scores are based on how a practice affects each of the soil health indicators and the practice score is the score for a particular practice across all the soil health indicators. The overall score is the average of all the indicator scores allowing users to easily compare how different combinations of practices impact soil health.

The tool also includes a future considerations table that breaks down the equipment, time and labor, skill level, and cost for implementing new practices. Additionally, the table highlights any ecosystem services a new soil health practice will provide, such as groundwater protection and pollinator habitat. You can access the tool by visiting the [Soil Health Nexus website](#). There are two versions of the tool: a downloadable Excel version that can be accessed by scrolling to the bottom of the page and the web-based version located directly on the website.

## NOAA Predicts Above-normal 2022 Atlantic Hurricane Season

Hurricanes rarely impact weather in the Great Lakes region, but just for fun, here is some information on the upcoming hurricane season from NOAA.

For the 2022 hurricane season, NOAA is forecasting a likely range of 14 to 21 named storms (winds of 39 mph or higher), of which 6 to 10 could become hurricanes (winds of 74 mph or higher), including 3 to 6 major hurricanes (category 3, 4 or 5; with winds of 111 mph or higher). NOAA provides these ranges with a 70% confidence.



There is a 65% chance that there will be more hurricanes than normal. The increased activity anticipated this hurricane season is attributed to several climate factors, including the ongoing La Niña that is likely to persist throughout the hurricane season, warmer-than-average sea surface temperatures in the Atlantic Ocean and Caribbean Sea, weaker tropical Atlantic trade winds and an enhanced west African monsoon. An enhanced west African monsoon supports stronger African Easterly Waves, which seed many of the strongest and longest lived hurricanes during most seasons. The way in which climate change impacts the strength and frequency of tropical cyclones is a continuous area of study for NOAA scientists.

2022 Atlantic Tropical Cyclone Names

Alex	Hermine	Owen
Bonnie	Ian	Paula
Colin	Julia	Richard
Danielle	Karl	Shary
Earl	Lisa	Tobias
Fiona	Martin	Virginie
Gaston	Nicole	Walter

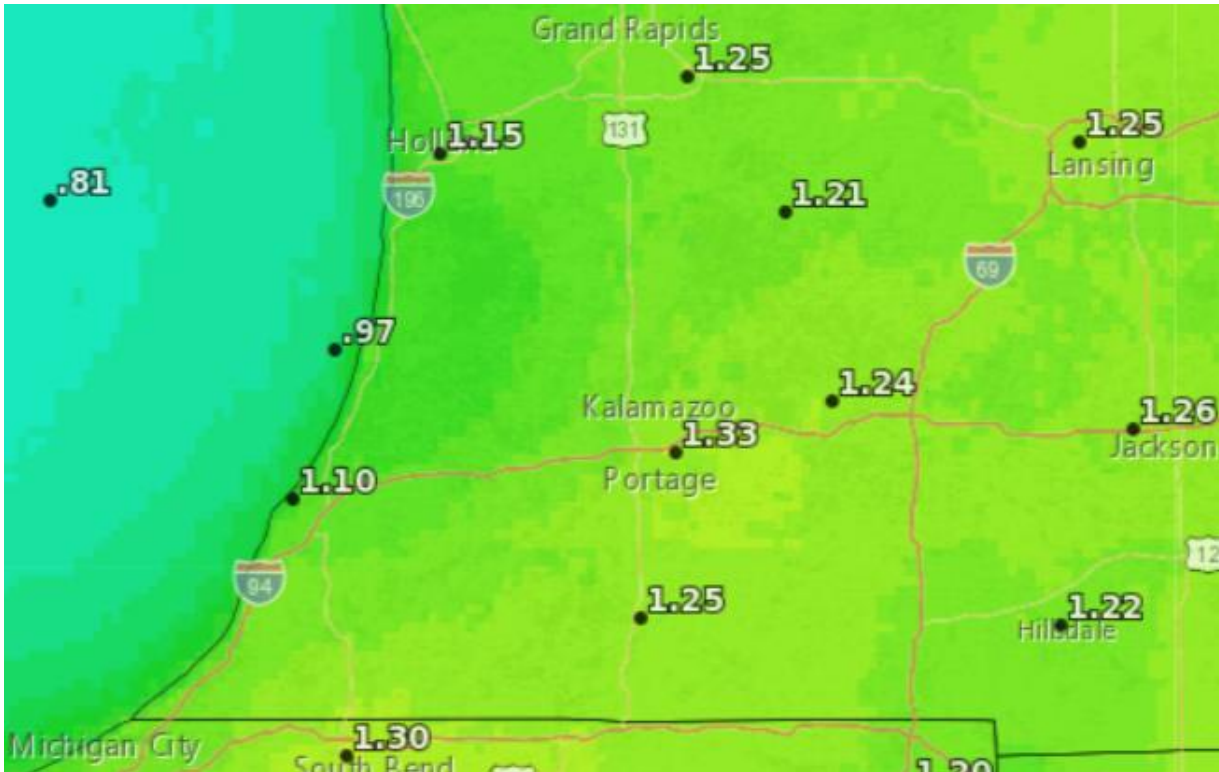
Names provided by the World Meteorological Organization

NOAA Be prepared: Visit [hurricanes.gov](https://hurricanes.gov) and follow @NWS and @NHC\_Atlantic on Twitter. May 2022

## Weather and Crop Update

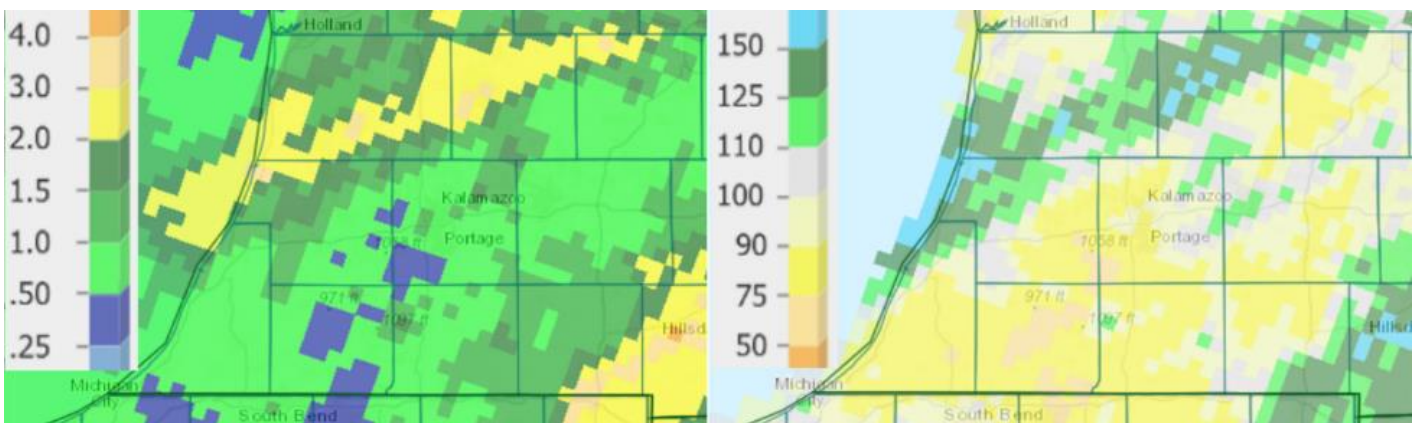
### Weather

Temperatures this past week were above average with 35 growing degree days (GDD, base 50) more than the 5-year average and more than twice as many as we had for that time in 2021. The current forecast is for only another 100 GDD<sub>50</sub> and 170 GDD<sub>40</sub> to be added this coming week as temps turn cooler. The potential evapotranspiration rates will be lower than last week with 1.2-1.3 inches this coming week. The medium-range outlooks both call for below-normal temps through the middle of June.

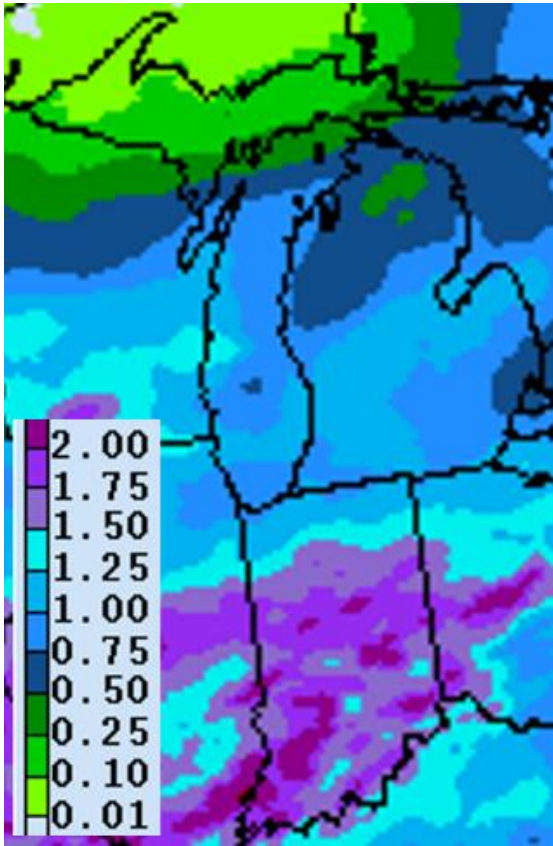


Weekly forecasted reference evapotranspiration rate for the week ending June 7.

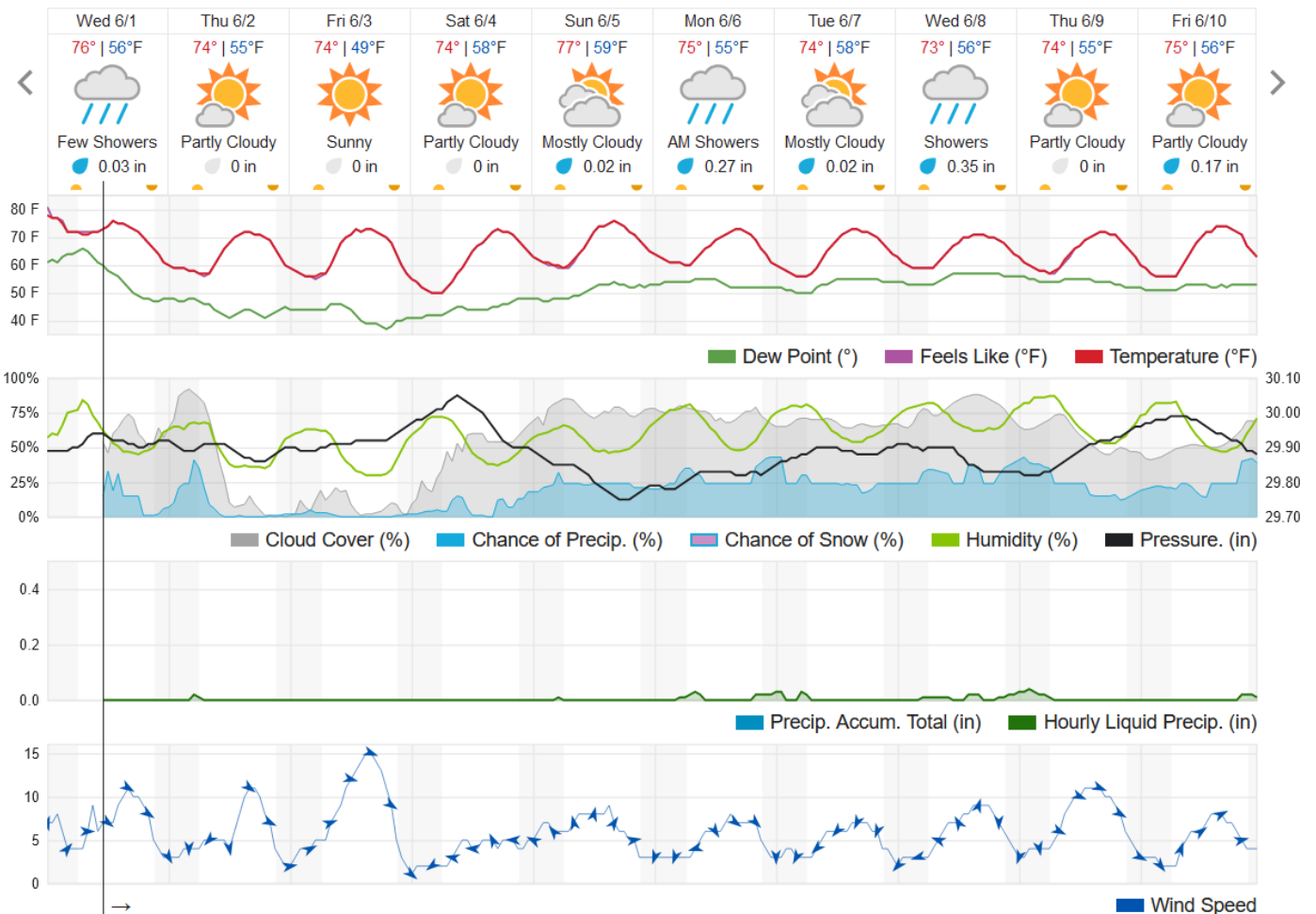
Precipitation this past week was near normal again with 0.5-1.5 inches of rain in most areas with heavier amounts in the northwest and southeast portions of the region. Rainfall in May was slightly below normal aside from those same two parts of the region. The forecast for this coming week is for 0.75-1.25 inches of rain although the confidence level is low. The 6-10 and 8-14 day outlooks both call for slight chances of wetter than normal conditions through the middle of the month.



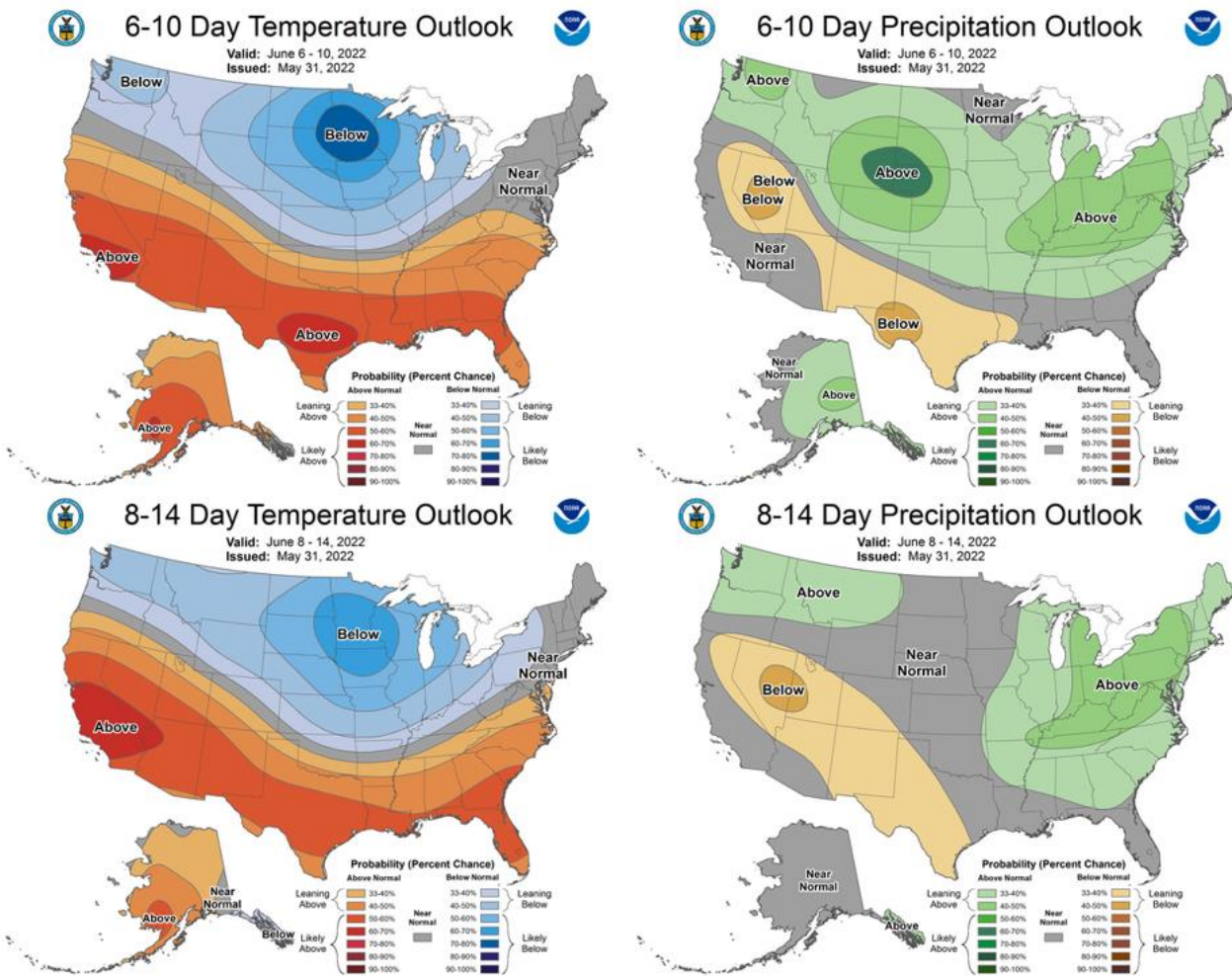
Precipitation totals from the past 7 days (left) and percent of normal for the last 30 days (right) as of June 1.



Precipitation forecast for June 1-8.



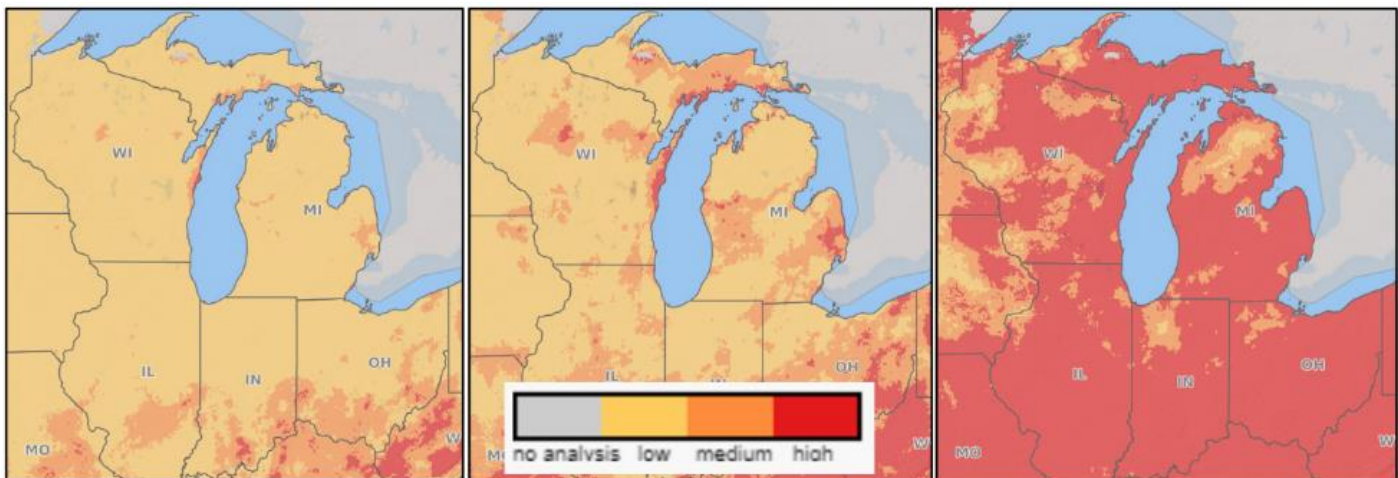
The 10-day weather forecast for Kalamazoo according to [www.wunderground.com](http://www.wunderground.com).



The 6-10 day (June 6-10, top) and 8-14 day (June 8-14, bottom) outlooks for temperature (left) and precipitation (right).

### Crops and Pests

**Wheat** in Michigan was rated at 51% good to excellent at the end of last week with another 31% rated fair. Fields in our region have reached beginning flower stage (Feekes 10.5.1) with heads fully emerged and a few anthers showing in the middle of the head. This is the optimum time for a fungicide application to protect the flag leaf and the head against *Fusarium* head blight, a.k.a. head scab. Currently, the risk of head scab is low for southwest Michigan for all but very susceptible wheat varieties. However, the forecast of cooler and wetter than normal conditions in the first half of June may increase that risk.



Risk of head scab for moderately susceptible (left), susceptible (middle) and very susceptible (right) varieties as of June 1 according to the [Fusarium Risk Tool](#). Risk maps for 2, 4 and 6 days out resemble the middle image.



Wheat at beginning flowering (Feekes stage 10.5.1) in different fields in St. Joseph and Kalamazoo counties. Photos courtesy of Eric Anderson.



Wheat heads at beginning flowering (Feekes stage 10.5.1) in an awnless (left) and awned (right) variety in St. Joseph County. Anthers are present but harder to see initially in awned varieties. Photos courtesy of Eric Anderson.

**Forage** harvesting began over the weekend as the hot, dry and windy conditions made for ideal hay drying. Alfalfa fields are a bit varied in regards to development in the region, but first cutting should begin in about a week. Reports of heavy alfalfa weevil feeding are coming in from central and southeast Michigan, and cutting early will usually prevent further losses due to feeding as the weevil larvae will either be killed during harvest or will fall onto the ground and starve once the hay is removed.





Grass hay field cut over Memorial Day weekend in St. Joseph County. Photo courtesy of Eric Anderson.

**Corn and soybean** planting continued to progress this past week with corn now at 80% planted in the state which is 8% ahead of the 5-year average. Soybean remains at the 5-year average with 60% planted. Emergence increased dramatically from last week as expected with 47 and 33% of the corn and soybean crop emerged, respectively, both of which are very close to the 5-year average. Early-planted corn is between V2 and V4 and soybean in the fields visited was just coming into V1—most fields where the crop has emerged are still at VC with only the unifoliates fully open. Corn requires 200-300 GDD<sub>50</sub> to progress from V2 to V6 depending on relative maturity group. With only 100 GDD<sub>50</sub> forecasted for the coming week, and with cooler than normal temperatures predicted through the middle of the month, sidedress will likely not begin for a couple of weeks.

**Insects.** Black cutworm and true armyworm catches were as low as last week and traps for those species have now been retired for the season. Reports of heavy alfalfa weevil feeding have come in from southeast and central Michigan, but harvesting early is usually the recommended method of control at this point. Early harvest will usually prevent further losses due to feeding as the weevil larvae will either be killed during harvest or will fall onto the ground and starve once the hay is removed. For those considering making an insecticide application, be sure to check the pre-harvest interval (PHI) on the label to determine whether waiting that long is desirable to maintain forage quality. No significant insect feeding has been reported yet in corn and soybean (only deer).

## Announcements & Jobs

- [MSU Extension 4-H Program Coordinator in St. Joseph County.](#) Apply online.
- [MSU Extension Field Crops Educator in Montcalm County.](#) Apply online.
- [MSU Extension Worker/4-H Urban Youth Programs in Kalamazoo County.](#) Apply online.
- [MSU Extension 4-H Program Coordinator in Hillsdale County.](#) Apply online.
- [MSU Extension Secretary/Secretary I in Calhoun County.](#) Apply online.

## Calendar

Titles are clickable links to online content when highlighted and underlined

**June 2** [Virtual Breakfast – Hot Topic Q&A session.](#) 7-8am. This hour-long broadcast from the MSU Extension Field Crops Team will run throughout the cropping season and feature a brief weather forecast and a presentation from a MSU specialist or educator on a timely topic. One RUP and one CCA credit will be available with each session. Cost is free. Register to receive the link that will be used throughout the season.

**June 9** [Virtual Breakfast – How to Get the Best out of Your Drainage System with Ehsan Ghane.](#) 7-8am. Register online once for the entire series.

- June 16** [Virtual Breakfast – White Mold Management in Soybean with Marty Chilvers](#) . 7-8am. Register online once for the entire series.
- June 16** [MI Wheat Program Field Day](#). 8:15 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. MSU Saginaw Valley Research & Extension Center, 3775 S. Reese Road, Frankenmuth, MI. Includes plot tours, lunch and the Michigan Wheat Program 10 Year Celebration program. Register online.
- June 23** [Virtual Breakfast – Irrigation in Michigan with Lyndon Kelley and Younsuk Dong](#) . 7-8am. Register online once for the entire series.
- June 30** [Virtual Breakfast – Cover Crops After Wheat with Brook Wilke](#) . 7-8am. Register online once for the entire series.
- July 15** Final Date to Report Crop Plantings & CRP

## MSU Extension Digest Briefs

PUBLISHED ON MAY 27, 2022

[MSU AGBIORESEARCH, EXTENSION TO HOST IN-PERSON 2022 FIELD DAYS](#) - From June to September, MSU AgBioResearch and MSU Extension researchers and outreach specialists will be presenting at field days across the state, covering topics from hops and wheat to dairy and regenerative agriculture.

PUBLISHED ON MAY 26, 2022

[MICHIGAN FARMER PARTICIPATION NEEDED FOR MULTI-STATE ON-FARM RESEARCH SURVEY](#) - Survey data collected from Michigan growers will help understand farmer perception of on-farm research.

PUBLISHED ON MAY 26, 2022

[2022 MSU WEED TOUR IS JUNE 29](#) - Come join us to view the latest in corn and soybean weed control research.

PUBLISHED ON MAY 19, 2022

[THIN SOYBEAN STANDS CAN PRODUCE SURPRISINGLY HIGH YIELDS](#) - Research results from 66 on-farm soybean planting rate trials can help producers make replant decisions.

PUBLISHED ON MAY 19, 2022

[IS PLANTING SOYBEANS IN 15-INCH ROWS WITH SPLIT-ROW PLANTERS PROFITABLE?](#) - Results from 11 on-farm research trials and a partial budget economic analysis comparing split-row planters to 30-inch-row planters.

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